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10/820,865	04/09/2004	Takahiro Watanabe	2004-0533A	8703
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TIV, BACKHEAN				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/820,865

Applicant(s)

WATANABE ET AL.

Examiner

BACKHEAN TIV

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4 and 6-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 2, 3 and 5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4 and 6-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 February 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

Claims 1,4,6-20 are pending in this application. Claims 2,3,5 have been cancelled. This is a response to the Amendments/Remarks filed on 2/26/08.

This action is made **FINAL**.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Drawings

The Drawing filed on 2/26/08 is acceptable.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 4/9/04, has been considered.

Specification

The specification, filed on 2/26/08, is acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,4,6-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 7,081,969 issued to Motamed et al.(Motamed) in

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view of US Publication 2003/0095524 issued to Stephens et al.(Stephens) in further view of US Publication 2002/0067504 issued to Salgado et al.(Salgado).

As per claim 1, Motamed teaches an information management apparatus for managing service-related information in a system having in which a plurality of electronic apparatuses-are linked therein via network, the electronic apparatuses being for working in liaison with each other to implement a desired service(Abstract), the information management apparatus comprising:

a service-specific information acquisition section for acquiring service-specific information which (i) is related to a combination of types of electronic apparatuses required for implementing a service(col.1, lines 40-55) and (ii) contains information related to an application that is operable on each of the electronic apparatuses which implement the service and used for implementing the service(col.1, lines 40-55, printing software);

a storage section for storing at least one piece of service-specific information acquired by the service-specific information acquisition section(col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 43);

an apparatus-specific information acquisition section for acquiring apparatus-specific information related to each electronic apparatus of the system(col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 43);

a request reception section for receiving search requests from the electronic apparatuses(col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 43);

_____ a search section for searching for the service which can be implemented by the electronic apparatuses of the system, the searching being (i) conducted in response to a search request received by the request reception section(col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 43), and (ii) based on the service-specific information stored in the storage section and the apparatus-specific information acquired by the apparatus-specific information acquisition section(col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 43).

Motamed however does not teach, a transmission section for transmitting, to the electronic apparatuses of the system, a search result which identifies a listing of services which can be implemented by the electronic apparatuses of the system and an update notification section for notifying the electronic apparatuses of the system that an updated version of the application, that is operable on each of the electronic apparatuses which implement the service, exists, if the stored service-specific information includes information related to the application that, based on the search result, indicates that an updated version of the application is available.

Stephens teaches a transmission section for transmitting, to the electronic apparatuses of the system, a search result which identifies a listing of services which can be implemented by the electronic apparatuses of the system,(para.0071,0073,0075).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Motamed to include a transmission section for transmitting, to the electronic apparatuses of the system, a search result which identifies a listing of services which can be

implemented by the electronic apparatuses of the system as taught by Stephens in order to inform devices of available services(Stephens, para.0073).

One ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of Motamed and Stephens in order to inform devices of available services(Stephens, para.0073).

Motamed in view of Stephens does not explicitly teach an update notification section for notifying the electronic apparatuses of the system that an updated version of the application, that is operable on each of the electronic apparatuses which implement the service, exists, if the stored service-specific information includes information related to the application that, based on the search result, indicates that an updated version of the application is available.

Salgado teaches an update notification section for notifying the electronic apparatuses of the system that an updated version of the application, that is operable on each of the electronic apparatuses which implement the service, exists, if the stored service-specific information includes information related to the application that, based on the search result, indicates that an updated version of the application is available(para.0011,0024).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Motamed in view of Stephens to include updating software as taught by Salgado in order to have the most updated version of a software(Salgado, para.0002).

One ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of Motamed, Stephens, and Salgado in order to have the most updated version of a software(Salgado, para.0002).

As per claim 4, the information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an application acquisition section for acquiring the updated version of the application if the information related to the application indicates that an updated version of the application is available, wherein, when the electronic apparatuses are notified of the updated version of the application, the transmission section is adapted to transmit the updated version of the application to the electronic apparatuses if the electronic apparatuses provide the transmission section with a notice to download the updated version of the application(Salgado, para.0011,0024). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 6, the information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: the apparatus-specific information acquisition section is adapted to acquire the apparatus-specific information associated with the electronic apparatuses from the electronic apparatuses; and the service-specific information acquisition section is adapted to acquire the service-specific information from the a server which is for managing the service-specific information and which is present on the network(Motamed, col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 43, Stephens, Fig.1, para.0032). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 7, the information management apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising: an inquiry section for inquiring of the server whether

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the service-specific information stored in the storage section has been updated; and a notification section for notifying the electronic apparatuses that the service-specific information has been updated if a result of the inquiry by the inquiry section indicates that the service-specific information has been updated(Stephens, para.0070,0080,0090, Salgado, para.0011,0023-0025).

Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 8, the information management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the inquiry section is adapted to make an inquiry to the server at regular intervals(Salgado, para.0008-0010). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 9, the information management apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an update section for updating the service-specific information stored in the storage section if a result of the inquiry by the inquiry section indicates that the service-specific information has been updated(Salgado, para.0008-0010). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 10, the information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: the apparatus-specific information acquisition section is adapted to acquire the apparatus-specific information associated with the electronic apparatuses from the electronic apparatuses; and the service-specific information acquisition section is adapted to acquire the service-specific information from the electronic apparatuses(Motamed, col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 42, Stephens, para.0058,0069). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 11, the information management apparatus according

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to claim 1, wherein: the service-specific information related to the combination of the types of the electronic apparatuses is related to a combination of models of the electronic apparatuses; the information management apparatus further comprises a specification section which is adapted to (i) refer to the service-specific information stored in the storage section and related to the service to be implemented by the electronic apparatuses (Motamed, col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 42), and (ii) specify a model of one electronic apparatus which works in liaison with another electronic apparatus to implement the service (Stephens, Fig.7); and the transmission section is adapted to transmit information which identifies the electronic apparatuses specified by the specification section to the electronic apparatuses which are used to implement the service (Motamed, col.2, lines 45-col.3, lines 42). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 12, the information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a cease confirmation section for confirming the presence or absence of a ceased service corresponding to the service-specific information stored in the storage section; and a request section for requesting the electronic apparatuses storing an application which corresponds to the ceased service to delete the stored application if the cease confirmation section determines that a ceased service exists among services corresponding to the service-specific information stored in the storage section (Motamed, col.2, , line 5-col.3, line 42, Stephens, para.0082,0090). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 13, the information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a cease confirmation section for confirming the presence or absence of a ceased service corresponding to the service-specific information stored in the storage section; and a deletion section for deleting the service-specific information, which corresponds to a ceased service, from the storage section if the cease confirmation section determines that a ceased service exists among services corresponding to the service-specific information stored in the storage section (Motamed, col.2, line 5-col.3, line 42, Stephens, para.0082,0090). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 14, the information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: an apparatus-specific information storage section for storing the apparatus-specific information acquired by the apparatus-specific information acquisition section; and an information deletion section for, deleting the apparatus-specific information stored in the apparatus-specific information storage section in response to a request from the electronic apparatuses (Motamed, col.2, line 5-col.3, line 42, Stephens, para.0082,0090). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 15, the information management apparatus according to claim 14, wherein in response to the request from the electronic apparatuses, the information deletion section, is adapted to delete the apparatus-specific information while deleting service-specific information related to services for which the electronic apparatuses, which

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correspond the deleted apparatus-specific information, are used from among service-specific information related to services which can be implemented by the electronic apparatuses(Motamed, col.2, , line 5-col.3, line 42, Stephens, para.0082,0090). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 16, the information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: when an additional electronic apparatus is newly added to the system, the apparatus-specific information acquisition section is adapted to acquire, from the additional electronic apparatus information related to a user of the additional electronic apparatus together with the apparatus-specific information; and the information management apparatus further comprises: a user information management section for managing user-related information; a user authentication section for determining whether to register the apparatus-specific information acquired by the apparatus-specific information acquisition section the user using (i) the user-related information managed by the user information management section and (ii) the user-related information acquired by the apparatus-specific information acquisition section; and an apparatus-specific information storage section for storing the apparatus specific information acquired by the apparatus-specific acquisition section if the user authentication section determines to register the apparatus-specific information(Motamed, col.2, , line 5-col.3, line 42, Stephens, para.0075-0078). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 17, the information management apparatus according

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to claim 1, further comprising: an apparatus-specific information storage section for storing apparatus-specific information transmitted from and associated with the electronic apparatuses; and an apparatus determination section for determining whether the apparatus-specific information corresponding to the electronic apparatuses associated with the service-specific information obtained by the search section is stored in the apparatus-specific information storage section (Motamed, col.2, , line 5-col.3, line 42).

As per claim 18, the information management apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising an absent electronic apparatus notification section for notifying the electronic apparatuses, which have provided a search request, of the type of the electronic apparatus corresponding to the apparatus-specific information which is not stored in the apparatus-specific information storage section if the apparatus determination section determines that the apparatus-specific information corresponding to a type of an electronic apparatus associated with the service-specific information obtained by the search section is not stored in the apparatus-specific information storage section (Motamed, col.2, , line 5-col.3, line 42, Stephens, para.0075). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 19, the information management apparatus according to claim 17, wherein, if the apparatus determination section determines that the apparatus-specific information corresponding to a type of the electronic apparatus associated with the service-specific information obtained by the

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search section is not stored in the apparatus-specific information storage section, then the storage section does not store the service specific information obtained by the search section(Motamed, col.2, , line 5-col.3, line 42, Stephens, para.0075). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 20, do not teach or further define over the limitations in claims 1,4,6-19. Therefore claims 20 is rejected for the same reasons set forth above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,4,6-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in its entirety as potentially teaching of all or part of the claimed invention.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Backhean Tiv whose telephone number is (571) 272-5654. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Backhean Tiv/
Examiner, Art Unit 2151
6/20/08

/John Follansbee/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2151